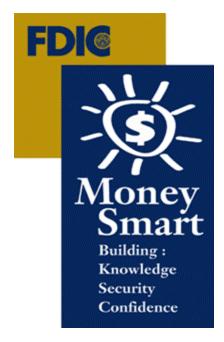
### Indiana Department of Financial Institutions

## TO YOUR CREDIT

### **Overheads**





Building: Knowledge, Security, and Confidence

FINANCIAL EDUCATION

# You Will Know

- What a credit report is and how it is used
- How to order a credit report
- How to read a credit report
- How to start repairing credit
- How to recognize credit repair scams
- Available resources



# What is a Credit Report

- Identifying Information
- Credit History
- Public Record Information
- Inquiries





# Definitions

- Tax Lien A claim against property filed by the taxing authority for unpaid taxes.
- Judgment A court order placing a lien on a debtor's property as security for a debt owed to a creditor.
- Collection Account A past due account that has been referred to a specialist to collect part or all of the debt.
- Bankruptcy A legal proceeding that can legally release a person from repaying debts that a person cannot pay back.



# Negative Credit Report Information

Type of negative information	Maximum time on credit report
General civil judgments	7 years from the date filed
Tax liens	7 years from the date paid (If tax lien is not paid, it will remain on the file indefinitely.)
Chapter 13 bankruptcies that have been dismissed or discharged	7 years
All other bankruptcies (such as Chapter 7)	10 years



# When Your Credit Report is Free

### Your report is free if:

- You have been recently denied for credit
- You have been recently denied employment or insurance
- You suspect someone has been fraudulently using your account
- You are unemployed and intend to apply for employment within 60 days
- You receive public welfare assistance
- You live in certain states





## Sample Credit Report

### **Credit Reporting Agency**

Please address all future correspondent to:

Credit Reporting Agency P. O. Box 0000 City, State, Zip Code 800 Phone number

#### SAMPLE CREDIT FILE

#### Personal Identification Information

Your Name Social Security #:000-00-0000

123 Current Address Date of Birth: January 21, 1967

City, State, Zip Previous Address(es)

234 Any Rd., Marlin, Alaska 0000 P. O. Box 0000, Hilo, PA 0000

Last Reported Employment: Hospital Administration

#### **Public Record Information**

Lien filed 02/95: Big CTY, Case or other ID number-000000; amount \$27045; Class-state; Released 07/95; Verified 02/95.

Bankruptcy filed 10/94; Any District Ct; Case or other ID number-000000; Liabilities-\$13072; Personal; Individual; Discharges: Assets -\$750.

#### Collection Agency Account Information

Any Collection Agency (800) 000-0000

Collection Reported 07/98; Assigned 09/99 to Any Collection Agency (800) 000-0000 Client-ABC Hospital; Amount-\$878; Paid collection account.

#### Credit Account Information

Company Name	Account Number		Terms	Iten	ns as of Date Re	eported	Date				
Nume	Number	Acct	Opened	Review	Last Activity	Credit		Balance	Past Due	Status	Rptd.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Bank	1234	1	04/98	24	04/01	\$750		\$0		I1	03/01
Store	5678	J	12/00	36	12/01	\$1000		\$0		R1	01/01
Auto Previous	9101 s Paymen	l t History	05/97 3 Times 3	48 0 davs lat	12/00 e: 4 Time:	\$2400 s 60 days la	ate	\$300	\$200	15	04/01

#### Companies that Requested your Credit File

08/06/00 Bureau Disclosure 12/27/01 Department Store 03/01/01 Bankcard 01/23/01 Bankcard



# Credit Report Comparison

### Sample Credit Report - #1

Company Name	Acct. Number	Whose Acct.	Date Opened	Last Activity	Type of Acct. & Status	High Credit	Terms	Balance	Past Due	Date Reported
Your VISA	1234	1	05/90	12/00	Revolving- Pays as agreed	5000	10	500	0	01/01

### Sample Credit Report - #2

Ite	em	Account Name	Description	Status		
	1	Your VISA PO Box 12345 Wilmington, DE 11111	This revolving loan was opened 05/90 and has unspecified repayment terms. You have contractual responsibility for this account and are primarily responsible for its payment.	As of 01/01, this account is current and all payments have been made on time.		

### Sample Credit Report - #3

Your VISA - #1234

Updated 1/2001 Balance \$500 Opened 5/1990 Most Owed \$5000 Status as of 1/200l: Paid or paying as agreed In prior 24 months from last update, never late Revolving Account Credit Card Individual Account Pay Terms: Min \$10

Credit Limit: \$5000



## Sample Dispute Letter

Date

Your Name Your Address Your City, State, Zip Code

Complaint Department Credit Bureau Credit Information Services P O Box 00000 City, State, Zip Code

Dear Sir or Madam:

I am writing to dispute the following information in my file. The items I dispute also are circled on the attached copy of the credit report I received.

The lien filed on 02/95 and bankruptcy filed 10/94 are inaccurate because I never had a lien or bankruptcy filed. I am requesting that these items be deleted to correct the information.

Please investigate these matters and delete the disputed items as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Your Name

Enclosures: Credit Report



### Identity Theft Resources

- www.consumer.bov/idtheft
  you can also call 1-877-438-4338
- www.fraud.org
  you can also call 1-800-876-7060
- For more information on ID Theft, visit the DFI Web Site at: <a href="http://www.dfi.state.in.us/conscredit/end.ht">http://www.dfi.state.in.us/conscredit/end.ht</a> m#ID







# True Statements About Credit Repair

- No one can have accurate information removed from your credit report.
- If you have bad credit, it can take years to repair your credit legitimately.
- No one can create a new identity for you.
- You can order your credit report yourself. If you see errors on your report, you can also request that the credit reporting agencies make appropriate changes.



